

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 7, 2007
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: SB 104
AUTHOR: M. Machado
RELATED BILLS: Chapter 664,
Statutes of 2004
(SB 855)

BILL SUMMARY: Crisis Nurseries

This bill would extend the sunset provision for the crisis nurseries pilot program to July 1, 2011.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Preliminary estimates indicate that costs associated with this bill are minimal and absorbable.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is fiscally neutral to this bill and has no programmatic concerns.

Existing law requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to establish a separate category of community care licensing for crisis nurseries, which provide short term, 24-hour non-medical residential care and supervision for children under 6 years of age who are either voluntarily placed in temporary care by a parent or guardian for up to 30 days, or who are temporarily placed by a county child welfare service agency for no more than 14 days. Crisis nurseries also offer parents referrals for services to help them establish stability and prevent dependency on crisis nurseries.

This bill would extend the January 1, 2008 sunset date relating to establishing crisis nurseries as a category of community care facilities to July 1, 2011. This bill also would require County Welfare Departments to inform crisis nurseries of the reason for the placement selection and would require crisis nurseries to report annually data on children served.

Discussion: Chapter 664, Statutes of 2004 (SB 855) established crisis nurseries as a separate licensing category. Prior to 2005, crisis nurseries were licensed as group homes which are residential facilities used by the courts and child welfare services for foster children and youth who have needs that cannot be met in the less restrictive settings of foster homes, foster family agencies, and homes of relatives. Supporters of SB 855 believed that the strict group home requirements were inappropriate for crisis nurseries, since the demands of these children were less serious than the emotional and behavioral problems of children taken from abusive and neglectful parents. In addition, operators of crisis nurseries argued that the cost of complying with group home regulations were excessive and threatened operational viability.

The Senate analysis of this bill notes that there has been no increase in the number of crisis nurseries since the passage of SB 855. However, we note that the regulations relating to crisis nurseries were approved by the Office of Administrative Law in February 2007. Because it is too early to determine the success of the pilot project, an extension of the pilot appears reasonable.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Analyst/Principal (0513) N. Buchen	Date	Program Budget Manager M Wilkening	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
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BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)**Form DF-43****AUTHOR****AMENDMENT DATE****BILL NUMBER**

M. Machado

June 7, 2007

SB 104

Amendments to this bill since our analysis of the March 7, 2007 version are minor and do not alter our position.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							Fund
	RV	98	FC	2006-2007	FC	2007-2008	FC	2008-2009	Code
5180/Social Svcs	SO	No	-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact				-----	0001
5180/Social Svcs	LA	No	-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact				-----	0001